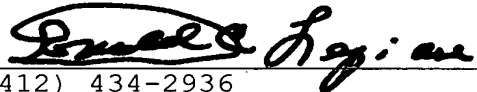


Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 33-46 and request allowance thereof.

This response represents a sincere effort to place the application in condition for allowance. In the event issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to discuss those issues before further action is taken on the case.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD C. LEPIANE
Registration No. 25,996
Attorney of Record


(412) 434-2936

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
February 28, 2001